

from heaven," The Venetian fleet,
 spread around
 the promontory, cut off aid from the
 sea, and the
 Greek archers kept *up* a continuous
 fire, "aiming
 their arrows almost as it were against
 heaven or
 against the clouds." *

Louis meanwhile, having spent
 Easter in. the
 Holy Land, set out homewards, full of
 anger against
 the Greeks and their ally Conrad, As
 the latter
 had avoided Roger, so Louis avoided
 the Greeks,
 and set his galleys towards Southern
 Italy. The

French King's return revived Roger's
 hopes. At

the moment George of Antioch was
 with sixty
 ships off Corfu attempting to raise the
 siege. He

turned south apparently with orders
 to meet

Louis and escort him to Palermo,
 where Roger

hoped to strike a bargain with him that
 would be a

set-off to the league of the two
 Empires, But a

Greek fleet under the Admiral
 Churupes had

already surrounded Louis's little flotilla
 off Cape

Malea, the Greek commander
 disguising his

design of taking the French King
 captive by invit-

ing him to return "to visit his friend
 and brother

in Constantinople," The Norman fleet
 next

appeared on the scene, the Queen's
 galley was

freed, and Louis, ascending one of
 George's ships,

got away by the trick of hoisting the

Venetian
flag, George himself, though he seems
to have
lost twenty of his galleys in the fight,
then set his
course for the Bosphorus, Apparently
unpursued,

¹ See Clanaraus, *op_t cit_n* p. 98 wg,, for a vivid
description of the